

Sacred People
LOVE



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022



Ascension Lutheran Church
1105 N. Washington Blvd.
Ogden, UT 84404
801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery is provided for children under 4 years of age.

Introduction

The shiny additions to our Advent setting remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All of Creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the invitation to shine with this holy light.

Front Cover:

Photo by [Markus Winkler](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Used by permission

Sacred People—LOVE

Welcome to Worship

Solo

Upon this moment,
upon this people,
upon this place,
the holy comes.
And sacred knowing
brings sacred being
for sacred doing of God's plan.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

WA We pray for Love this day.

All We pray for Love this day.

WA We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

All We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

WA We open to see each person

All We open to see each person

WA as a gift of holy presence.

All as a gift of holy presence.

WA This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

All This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

WA lighting the way to love.

All lighting the way to love.



U-pon this mo - ment, U-pon this peo - ple, U-pon this
 place the Ho-ly comes. And Sa-cred know-ing brings Sa-cred
 be - ing for Sa-cred do - ing of God's plan.

P Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Love,
 we give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloveds.

All As we take in the love you offer,
 may we be a reflection of your light,
 expanding the sacred presence you have promised
 into the sacred presence we can offer. Amen

refracting the sacred

As light passes through a medium, it can be redirected in ways that make its brilliance more visible, as in a prism.

As we encounter the message today, we see the world and our own lives and loved ones in a different light, one that invites us to know more deeply the sacred nature of all things.

A Reading from Romans, the 13th chapter

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15: 4-13

L Word of God, Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
His name is called Em - man - u - el:
God with us, re - vealed in us!
His name is called Em - man - u - el.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 3: 1-12

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

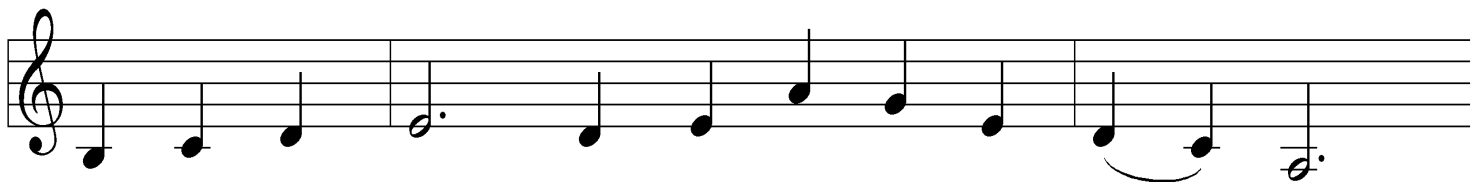
Message

Pr. Debra Jimenez

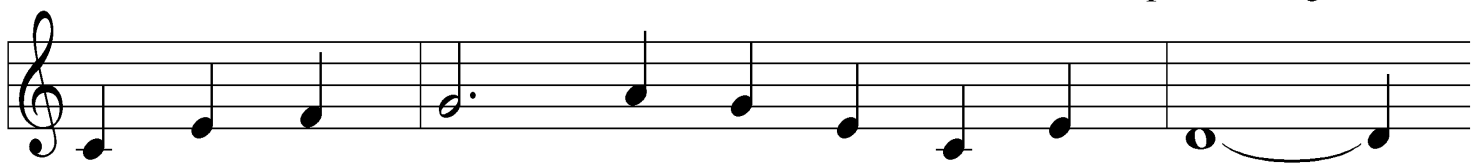
Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.


O Christ the Same



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



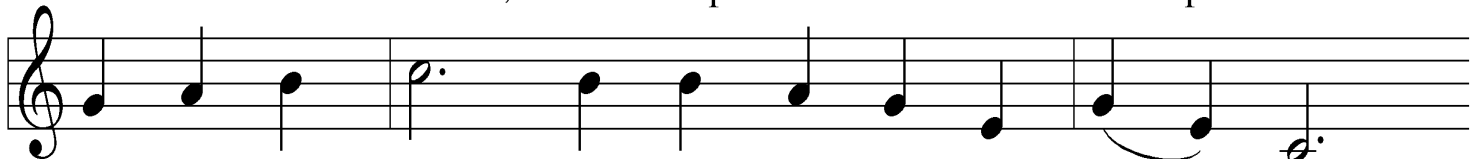
our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,




un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:




O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Blessing of the Quilts—*see insert*

Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

refilling the sacred

We are wells of the sacred. God's presence is poured into creation in a never-ending flow of love. We enter a time of prayer that invites us to be refilled in ways that can help us pour out our love throughout the week. All we must do in this moment is open our hearts to the Holy One.

Prayers of Intercession

L As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness waits,



tru - ly my hope is in you.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: God, in your mercy,

All: **You hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Love of Christ

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that peace through sign language.

P Christ become Love with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

[You may be Seated](#)

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

(tune: What Child is This)

*♪ ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow ♪ ♪
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God all heavens and the earth
reflecting the sacred story.*

***This, this is Christ the One
who mirrors love for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.***

Offertory Prayer

P God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

All Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Invitation to the Table

Christ invites all to his table, for he is the One who is reflected in all things and unites all things. There is a place for you. This Cosmic Banquet of Love is set for a hungry and hurting world. When we take in and take on Christ, we are the Body of Christ sent forth into the world to lay a banquet of love wherever we find ourselves.

Let us open ourselves so that our hearts might be filled completely.

Confession and Assurance

P Maker and Lover of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied, self-involved, or worried to notice your presence in our lives...

when we are too rushed to allow moments of wonder and awe that lead to hope,

when we are too frightened to imagine those not like us loved equally by you,

when we gloss over the most ordinary details as a revelation of your joy, when we fail to stop and reside in peace with you in our depths.

All **Open us, O God,
 free us to reflect the sacred.
 Touch us with your presence,
 we pray in your Holy Name:
 Christ, Anointed One. Amen.**

P Hear this good news:
 God is with us in our distress and in our faltering.
 God is always and already closing the gaps we create.
 Jesus calls us to this table with unfailing and gracious hospitality.
 You are forgiven and freed. You are not alone.

All **We are forgiven and freed. We are not alone.
 Glory to God! Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P The Holy One be with you

All **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts

All **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
 to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovering of sight to the blind,
 to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
 and to announce that the time had come
 when you would save your people.
 He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

A reflection of this purpose, and anointed as his disciples,
 Christ's birth is our awakening,
 Christ's suffering is all suffering,
 Christ's death and resurrection is the pattern of all things.

P We are his Body in the world—
 the Body of Christ—renewed by water and the spirit.
 He has been, is, and always will be with us,
 One in Three, Three in One, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.



All: On the night You were be - trayed You took the bread;__ Af - ter



giv - ing thanks,__ You broke it and said, "This is My __



bod - y, bro - ken for__ you, and as you



eat__ it, re - mem - ber Me; This is My__



bod - y bro - ken for__ you, and as you



eat__ it, re - mem - ber Me." On the



night You were__ be - trayed__ You held the cup;__ Af - ter



giv - ing thanks,__ You lift - ed it up. "This is My __



blood, poured out for__ you, and as you drink__ it, re - mem - ber
 Me; This is My__ blood, poured out for__ you, and as you
 drink____ it, re - mem - ber__ Me." So, we
 thank You for__ the wine____ and for the bread;__ For we
 see the life__ You gave__ and the blood You_ shed. And we re -
 mem - ber Your won - drous__ love, You gave Your
 bod - y, You shed Your blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous
 love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your blood.

The Lord's Prayer

P Let us approach the throne of grace as we pray as Jesus taught us:

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;

All and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

The Invitation

P Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion Songs

Come And Behold Him Words and Music by John Chisum and George T. Searcy

1 Come and be - hold Him, come, see His glo - ry,
 2 Come and be - hold Him, come, see His mer - cy,

come with an hon - est heart to see all He is;
 come find His ten - der - ness_ reach - ing to you;

We will dis - cov - er all of His beau - ty, His light will
 Just as a mir - ror shows a re - flec - tion, His Word and

burn a - way all the dark - ness we've known. _____
 Spir - it come, now re - flect - ing His love. _____ Come and be -

hold _____ Him, come and be - hold _____ Him, come with an

hon - est heart to see all He is; Come and be -

hold _____ Him, wait now be - fore _____ Him, come with an

hon - est heart to see all He is. _____

Beautiful Saviour

Words and Music by
Stuart Townend

1 All _____ my days I will sing this song of
2 I _____ will trust in the cross of my Re -
3 long _____ to be where the praise is nev - er

glad - ness, give _____ my praise to the Foun - tain of de -
deem - er; I _____ will sing of the blood that nev - er
end - ing; Yearn _____ to dwell where the glo - ry nev - er

lights; For in my help - less - ness You
fails, Of sins for - giv - en, of
fades, Where count - less wor - ship - ers will

heard my _____ cry, and waves of mer - cy poured _____ down on my
con - science _____ cleansed, of death de - feat - ed and _____ life with - out
share one _____ song, And cries of "wor - thy" will _____ hon - or the

1 2, 3
Beau - ti - ful
end. _____ Beau - ti - ful
Lamb! _____

Sa - viour, Won - der - ful Coun - sel - or, clothed in
maj - es - ty, Lord of his - to - ry, You're the Way, the Truth, the
Life. Star of the Morn - ing, glo - rious in

ho - li - ness, You're the Ris - en One, heav - en's
 Cham - pi - on, and You reign, You reign o - ver all!

Post Communion Blessing *and* Prayer

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

P Most High God,
 you have come among us at this table.

All By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
 sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
 through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Anointed as Sacred People

As we consider Sacred People this week, I invite you to use the oil or lotion you received last week in a couple of different ways. For those of you worshiping with us at home, you are welcome to use a little olive oil or lotion.

Each morning as you look in the mirror – as you get ready to start your day, consider anointing yourself. As you do so, remember you are a reflection of the sacred. If you live with others, and they are comfortable with it,

consider anointing one another and celebrate the ways you reflect the sacred to one another.

Now for the real challenge. When you encounter someone that you just can't see their reflection as sacred... It might be someone in the news, your workplace, your grocery store, your church. Stop, take a breath, and imagine seeing yourself anointing them. Imagine light emanating from them and then say a prayer. Ask Christ to make a clear path – to open your eyes to see them as sacred - through Christ's eyes of love.

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P When you see lights twinkle,
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence
is pouring more love into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us.

This means you are already
reflecting the sacred.

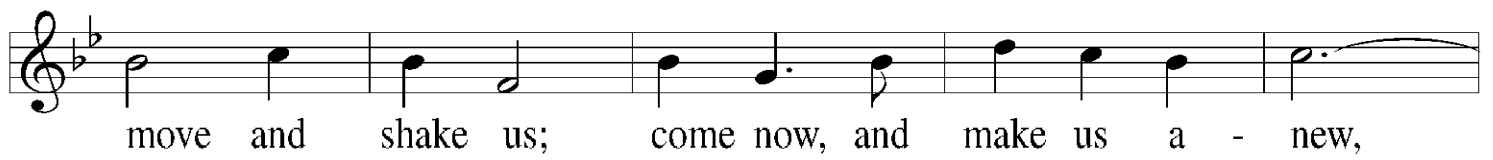
In the name of the Creator, Christ, ✝ and Spirit of Love.

All Amen

Sending Song

Refrain Let Justice Roll like a River

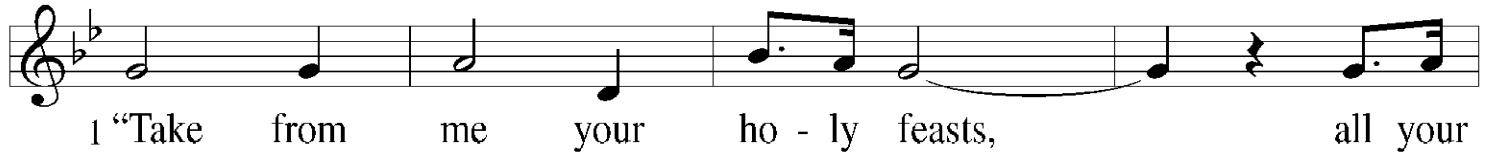
Let jus - tice roll like a riv - er, and wash all op -
pres - sion a - way. Come, O God, and take us,



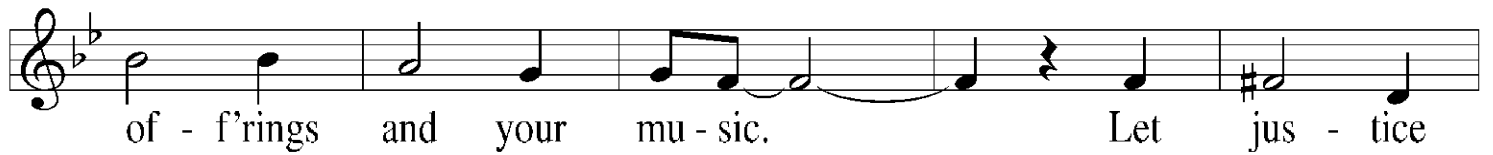
move and shake us; come now, and make us a - new,



that we might live just - ly like you.



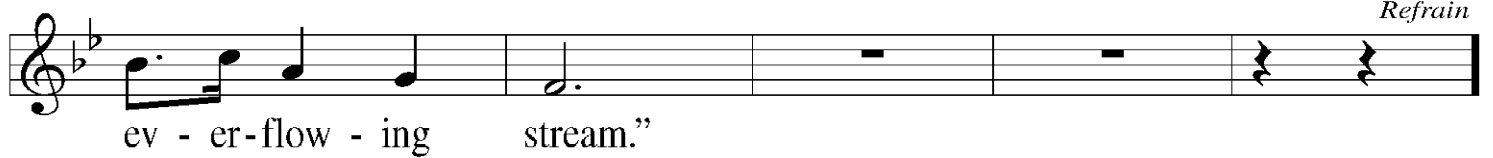
1 "Take from me your ho - ly feasts, all your



of - f'rings and your mu - sic. Let jus - tice



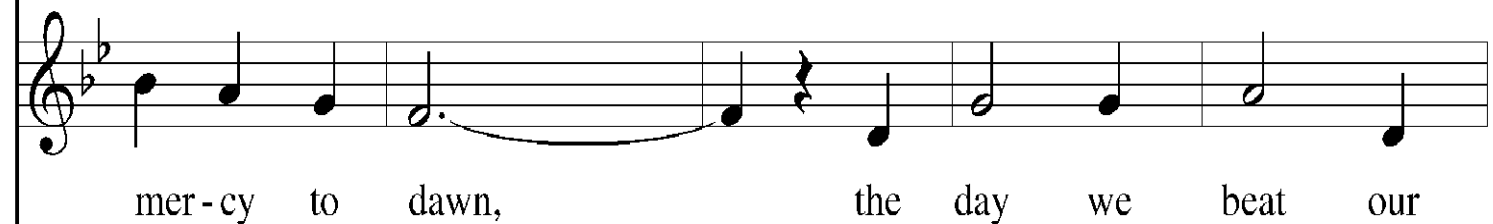
flow like wa - ters, and in - teg - ri - ty like an



ev - er - flow - ing stream." *Refrain*



2 How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your



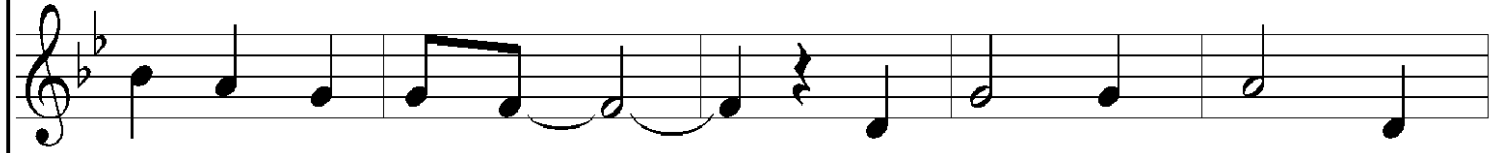
mer - cy to dawn, the day we beat our



swords in - to plows, when your peace reigns o - ver the earth? *Refrain*

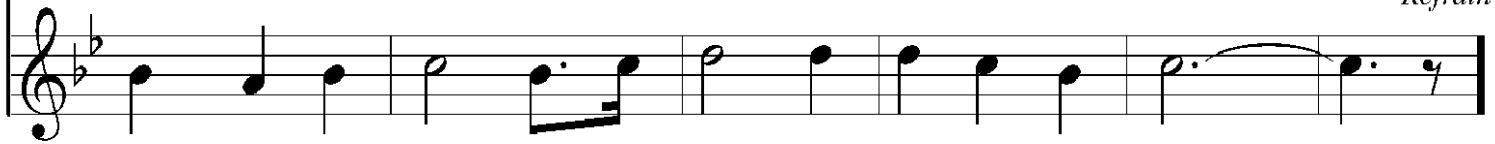


3 Hear this, all of you who use the poor in your thirst of
 4 "E - ven now, re - turn to me, let your hearts be

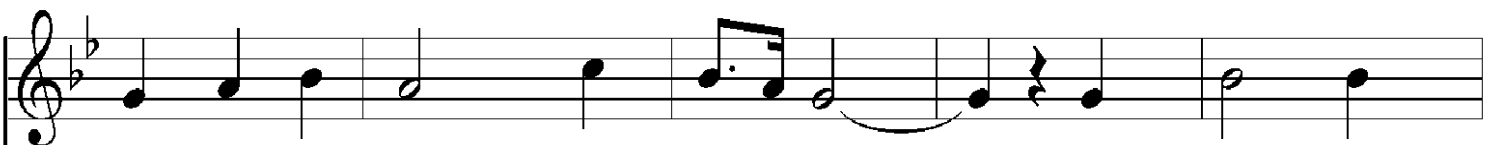


pow - er and rich - es: the Lord will turn your
 bro - ken and hum - ble, for I am gra - cious,

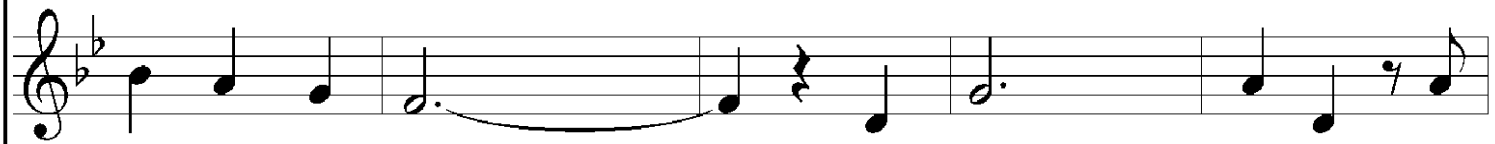
Refrain



laugh - ter to tears, on the won - drous Day of our God.
 gen - 'rous and kind." Come and seek the mer - cies of God.

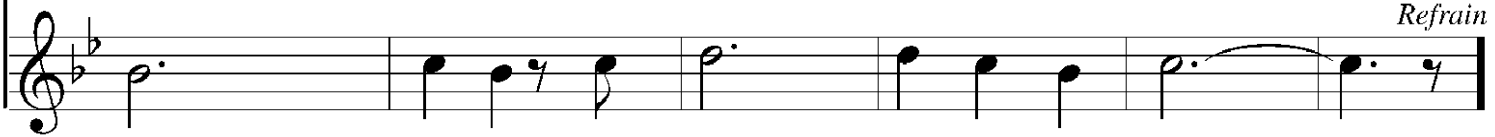


5 You have been told the way of life, the way of



jus - tice and peace: to act just - ly, to

Refrain



love gent - ly, to walk hum - bly with God.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Christ is near

All Thanks be to God.

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions

Used by Permission OneLicense.net A-705915

Used by Permission CCLI LiscenSing License # 1924512